Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1-10 **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Currently Amended)** A microemulsion comprising:

(A) 0.5 to 70% by weight of the alkanolammonium salts of alkylsulfates and alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates having the structure:

$$R^1\text{-}O\text{-}(C_pH_{2p}O)_m\text{-}SO_3^-HN^+R^2R^3R^4,$$

wherein

R^1 is a C_8- to C_{20}-hydrocarbon residue,

p is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein p can be different for each m,

R^2 is H, a C_1- to C_6-alkyl, or a C_2- to C_4-hydroxyalkyl,

R^3 is H, a C_1- to C_6-alkyl, or a C_2- to C_4-hydroxyalkyl,

R^4 is a hydroxyisopropyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 7,

and mixtures thereof;

(B) 20 to 95% by weight water;

(C) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one oil component; and

(D) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one mono- or polyvalent C_2- to C_{24}-alcohol,

each based on the total composition of the microemulsion, said microemulsion being optically transparent.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to claim 11, wherein the alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates comprise the following residue or indices:

R^1 is a linear and saturated C_{12}- to C_{16}-alkyl residue,

p is 2 or 3, wherein p can be different for each m,

R^2 is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R^3 is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R^4 is hydroxyisopropyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 2.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, wherein the microemulsion contains component

(A) in an amount of 2 to 60% by weight,

(B) in an amount of 30 to 80% by weight,

(C) in an amount of 0.5 to 15% by weight, and

(D) in an amount of 0.1 to 9% by weight.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, further containing at least one of the following components:

(E) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one surfactant,

(F) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one electrolyte, and

(G) 0 to 10% by weight of at least one additive, wherein (F) and (G) are exclusive of any ionic surfactant.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to claim 14, containing at least one of the following components:

(E) at least one additional surfactant comprising a triglyceride alkoxylated with ethyleneoxide and/or propyleneoxide and at least partially esterified with a C_6- to C_{22}-fatty acid, and

(G) at least one additive comprising a poly(C_2- to C_4-)alkyleneglycol having a molecular weight of up to 1,500 g/mole.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, wherein the oil component (C) contains one or more components selected from the group consisting of lecithins; mono-, di-, and/or triglycerides of saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 8 to 24 carbon atoms;

branched and/or linear hydrocarbons; waxes; petroleum jelly; paraffin oils; polyolefins; silicone oils; esters of saturated, unsaturated, and/or aromatic, branched and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms; and saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear alcohols having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that the microemulsion is a stable and transparent emulsion, the disperse phase thereof having an average particle size of less than 100 nm.

18-19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** A microemulsion consisting essentially of:

(A) 0.5 to 70% by weight alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkyl-polyalkyleneglycolethersulfates having the structure:

$$R^1\text{-}O\text{-}(C_pH_{2p}O)_m\text{-}SO_3^-HN^+R^2R^3R^4,$$

wherein

R^1 is a C_8- to C_{20}-hydrocarbon residue,

p is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein p can be different for each m,

R^2 is H, a C_1- to C_6-alkyl, or hydroxyisopropyl,

R^3 is H, a C_1- to C_6-alkyl, or C_4-hydroxyisopropyl,

R^4 is a hydroxyisopropyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 7,

and mixtures thereof;

(B) 20 to 95% by weight water, and

(C) 0.1 to 20% by weight one or more oil component(s), and

(D) 0.1 to 20% by weight of one or more mono- or polyvalent C_2- to C_{24}-alcohol(s),

and optionally

(E) 0 to 20% by weight of one or more additional surfactant(s)

(F) 0 to 20% by weight of one or more electrolyte(s), and

(G) 0 to 10% by weight of one or more additive(s)

each based on the total composition, and

wherein no compound falls under two categories of (A) to (G) at the same time, said microemulsion being optically transparent.